

(Washington, D.C.) - Millions of minimum wage workers across Texas and the United States will see the first increase in the Federal minimum wage in 10 years, today. The Federal minimum wage is increasing as a result of legislation supported by Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23). Over the next two years, the Federal minimum wage will rise incrementally to \$7.25 per hour.

"At a time when we face skyrocketing gasoline, education, and childcare costs, raising the minimum wage is about more than just economics, it is about valuing our families," said Congressman Ciro Rodriguez. "I believe an honest day's work deserves a fair day's pay and today we will take the first step as a nation to ensure that millions of hardworking Americans and their families will earn what they deserve."

Quick facts about the increase in minimum wage:

- Today, July 24, 2007, the minimum wage rises 70 cents from \$5.15 to \$5.85 per hour, rising to \$7.25 in two years
- Approximately 13 million hourly workers are impacted by the increase, including:
 - o 2.3 million Hispanics, and over 2 million African-Americans
 - o 863,000 Texans directly, and 1,771,000 Texan workers overall will benefit
 - o 7.4 million women, 3.3 million parents, and 6 million children
 - o 50,000 military families
- By 2009, workers will receive an increase of \$4,400 per year

Congressman Rodriguez is a Member of the House Appropriations Committee.